Serial No.: 09/863,061

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please amend the claims in accordance with the following:

1-58 Cancelled

59. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating via a set of frequency bands, comprising:

obtaining a first electrical signal that encodes ~~from~~ a first information stream, wherein:

the energy of said first electrical signal is concentrated within a plurality of frequency bands that comprises substantially non-overlapping frequency bands; and

said first information stream can be recovered ~~reated~~ from any subset of said ~~first~~ plurality of frequency bands that is one less, in number, than said ~~first~~ plurality of frequency bands,

~~applying~~ transmitting said first electrical signal onto a conductive path;

receiving energy within a first frequency band from ~~, at on~~ said conductive path, wherein:

a highest frequency of said first frequency band is lower than a lowest frequency of said plurality of frequency bands,

a lowest frequency of said first frequency band is higher than a highest frequency used in a second frequency band,

at least a portion of said first electrical signal is ~~conducted~~ transmitted simultaneously with receiving said energy within said first frequency band; and

transmitting and receiving voiceband signals within said second frequency band onto said conductive path, wherein at least part of said transmitting and receiving of voiceband signals is conducted simultaneously with said ~~applying~~ transmitting of said first electrical signal.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

~~expressing~~ encoding a second information stream as a second electrical signal, wherein the energy of said second electrical signal is concentrated within said first frequency band; and

transmitting ~~applying~~ said second electrical signal onto said conductive path.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 80, further comprising receiving ~~at~~ said first electrical signal at said third point on said conductive path, wherein the energy of said first electrical signal is concentrated within said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, further comprising sustaining the connection of an ordinary telephone device to a fourth point on said conductive path while providing a relatively high impedance to signals on said path at frequencies above the voiceband, wherein at least part of said sustaining is conducted simultaneously with said ~~applying~~ transmitting of said first electrical signal and said second electrical signal ~~at~~, said fourth point ~~of connection~~ being different than said first, second, and third points ~~of connection~~.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein said third, and said fourth points ~~of connection correspond to~~ are implemented with RJ-11 telephone jacks connected to said conductive path.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein ~~each frequency band in~~ said ~~plurality of substantially non overlapping~~ frequency bands are of substantially equal width.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said first information stream is a stream of video.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said first information stream is a digital stream that represents video information.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 59~~ claim 60, wherein said second information stream represents a control signal that has an influence on the content of said first information stream.

70. (Cancelled)

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein said first frequency band is narrower than the difference between a ~~the~~ highest frequency in ~~covered by~~ said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands and a ~~the~~ lowest frequency in ~~covered by~~ said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands.

72. (Currently Amend) The method of claim 60, wherein said second information stream is ~~expressed~~ transmitted as time-varying infrared light patterns.

73-76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said second information stream is ~~expressed~~ transmitted as time-varying infrared light patterns.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein said second information stream represents a control signal that has an influence on the content of said first information stream.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59,

wherein ~~applying~~ the first electrical signal is ~~applied~~ transmitted onto the conductive path ~~applies the first electrical signal~~ at a first point on the conductive path,

wherein ~~receiving~~ energy within a first frequency band ~~on the conductive path~~ is received ~~s energy~~ at the first point on the conductive path, and

wherein ~~transmitting and receiving~~ said voiceband signals ~~on the conductive path~~ are transmitted ~~s~~ and received ~~s voiceband signals~~ at a second point on the conductive path.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 79, further comprising:

~~expressing~~ encoding a second information stream as a second electrical signal, wherein the energy of the second electrical signal is concentrated within the first frequency band; and

~~applying~~ transmitting the second electrical signal at a third point onto the conductive path, the third point being different than the first point on the conductive path.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, wherein ~~applying~~ transmitting said first electrical signal onto the conductive path presents a ~~applies said first electrical signal while providing a relatively~~ high impedance to energy on said path at voiceband frequencies.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 66, further including a gap band extending between a highest frequency of a first one of said plurality of frequency bands and a lowest frequency of a second one of said plurality of frequency bands, wherein the highest frequency of said first one of said plurality of frequency bands is ~~a~~ lower ~~frequency~~ than the lowest frequency of said second one of said plurality of frequency bands.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 82, wherein ~~at least some~~ noise ~~energy is~~ induced on ~~propagated along~~ said conductive path within said gap band, where said ~~at least some~~ noise comes from ~~energy created by a~~ source that is not connected to said conductive path.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, wherein the amplitude of the noise induced within said gap band is higher than an amplitude of noise in a first band that would prevent significant recovery of information from said first band, said first band corresponding to said first one of said plurality of frequency bands ~~includes at least some noise energy, propagated along said conductive path, is sufficient to degrade the first information stream~~.

85. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, further including:

~~recreation of~~ recovering said first information stream from the ~~energy received by said receiver~~ first electrical signal ~~single~~; and

propagation of ~~at least some~~ noise ~~energy~~ from a source other than said first electrical signal along said conductive path within at least one of said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands;

wherein in response to the ~~at least some~~ noise ~~energy~~ said first information stream is ~~recreated~~ recovered without said ~~the at least~~ one of said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands.

86. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 59, further including:

~~recreation of~~ recovering said first information stream from said first electrical signal ~~the energy received by said receiver~~; and

propagation of ~~at least some~~ noise ~~energy~~ along said conductive path, a power spectrum of said noise overlapping ~~within~~ each frequency band of said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands;

wherein ~~in~~ said first information stream is ~~recreated~~ recovered without a frequency band in said plurality of ~~substantially non-overlapping~~ frequency bands ~~having~~ that has the smallest respective signal to noise ratio ~~most noise energy~~.